

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01
INT-05 OMB-01 OES-06 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:RWBEALES:MRC
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S/S:S.GOLDSMITH
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R 210059Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 307887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN EMBASSY OFFICER BRIEFED ON STRATEGIC
PETROLEUM RESERVE

1. IRANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR AKBAR CALLED AT DEPARTMENT
DECEMBER 17 AT OUR REQUEST TO HEAR OUR EXPLANATION OF
FEA'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PROCEDURES IT PROPOSES
TO FOLLOW IN FILLING THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE
(SPR). (DEPUTY SECRETARY HAO TALKED BRIEFLY TO AMBASSADOR
ZAHEDI EARLIER BY PHONE.) AKBAR WAS GIVEN WRITTEN SUMMARY
OF PERTINENT SECTIONS OF FEA PROPOSAL. WE ARE POUCHING
A COPY OF THE SUMMARY TO EMBASSY.

2. AKBAR'S QUESTIONS WERE LIMITED, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED
OPTIMISTIC THAT FEA'S PREFERENCE FOR CONTRACTS OFFERING
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OIL THAT WOULD BE INCREMENTAL TO EXISTING PRODUCTION
AND PROVIDING GREATEST SECURITY OF SUPPLY (READ TO MEAN
FROM NON-EMBARGOING STATES) WOULD WORK TO IRAN'S FAVOR
AS A SUPPLY SOURCE. HE DID NOT EVIDENCE PARTICULAR
CONCERN THAT RESERVE WOULD BE LIMITED TO LIGHTER
GRAVITY CRUDES.

3. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH HOW SALES VIA FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WOULD WORK AND HOW REGULATIONS RE SHIPPING VIA UNITED STATES BOTTOMS WOULD BE APPLIED. ALTHOUGH DEPTOFF EXPRESSED BELIEF ALL PROCUREMENT WOULD OCCUR THROUGH UNITED STATES OIL COMPANIES, AKBAR CONTINUED TO EVIDENCE OPTIMISM THAT IRAN WOULD BENEFIT. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES WOULD BE INVOLVED IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FEA PROPOSAL. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED THAT PROPOSAL WOULD BE BEFORE BOTH CHAMBERS FOR 45 DAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 4, BUT IF ANY COMMITTEE WERE TO ACT ON IT, IT WOULD BE DINGLE'S SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE OR KENNEDY'S IN SENATE.

4. AKBAR EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE RESULTS OF THE JUST-CONCLUDED OPEC OIL MINISTERS' MEETING IN DOHA. HE WONDERED HOW, IN THE LONG TERM, IRAN COULD HOPE TO SELL ITS OIL AT A HIGHER PRICE THAN THE SAUDIS AND THE UAE, IF SAUDIS DO EXPAND PRODUCTION.
KISSINGER

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